

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The following claims are pending in the application. The status of all claims is provided.

1-28. Cancelled

29. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting degradation of a natriuretic peptide present in a subject, comprising:

selecting said subject on the basis of a diagnosis of congestive heart failure; and

administering one or more inhibitors of prolyl-specific dipeptidyl peptidase ("DPP") to said subject in an amount sufficient to inhibit degradation of the natriuretic peptide by prolyl-specific DPP.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the inhibitor(s) of prolyl-specific DPP comprise a dipeptide analogue comprising an aza, azetidine, boronate, hydroxylamine, or phosphonate moiety.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the inhibitor(s) of prolyl-specific DPP comprise an antibody or fragment thereof.

32. (Previously presented) A method for increasing the level of natriuretic peptide function in a subject, comprising:

selecting said subject on the basis of a diagnosis of congestive heart failure; and

administering one or more inhibitors of prolyl-specific DPP to said subject in an amount sufficient to inhibit degradation of the natriuretic peptide in said subject by prolyl-specific DPP.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 32, wherein one or more additional molecules selected from the group consisting of inhibitors of neutral endopeptidase and natriuretic peptides are also administered to said subject.

34-42. Cancelled

43. (Previously presented) A method of treatment, comprising:

selecting a subject for treatment on the basis of a diagnosis of congestive heart failure;  
and

administering one or more inhibitors of prolyl-specific DPP to said subject in an amount sufficient to inhibit degradation of B-type natriuretic peptide in said subject by prolyl-specific DPP.

44. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 43, wherein the inhibitor(s) of prolyl-specific DPP comprise a dipeptide analogue comprising an aza, azetadine, boronate, hydroxylamine, or phosphonate moiety.

45. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 43, wherein the inhibitor(s) of prolyl-specific DPP comprise an antibody or fragment thereof.

46. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 43, wherein one or more additional molecules selected from the group consisting of inhibitors of neutral endopeptidase and natriuretic peptides are also administered to said subject.